

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 IO-13 SR-02 ORM-03 EB-11

AGR-20 OMB-01 RSR-01 /174 W  
----- 105730

O R 171135Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2148

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

CINCUSARPAC

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DIA WASHDC

CGFMFPAC  
CGUSARSUPTHAI  
CNO  
COMNAVINTCOM  
COMSEVENTHFLT  
COMUSMACTHAI  
7/13 AF  
7TH PSYOPS  
COMUSSAG  
III MAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 7227

JOINT EMBASSY/DAO

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, CB  
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT - JULY 17, 1973

GENERAL

1. A COMPROMISE AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL HAS PRODUCED NEW INSTITUTIONS TO IMPROVE COOPERATION BETWEEN CIVILIAN AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES, THUS AVERTING A NASCENT POLITICAL CRISIS WHICH LOOHB D OVER THE WEEKEND. INCLUDED IN THE PACKAGE IS A DECISION TO ACCORD PM IN TAM THE PORTFOLIO OF INTERIOR CON- CURRENTLY WITH HIS PRESENT FUNCTIONS. SIHANOUK AND GRUNK HAVE REJECTED THE GKR'S JULY 6 PEACE INITIATIVE; THE PRINCE REITERATED HIS REFUSAL TO MEET WITH KISSINGER, ALTHOUGH HE LATER SAID THAT THE KHMER ROUGE COULD DO SO IF THEY DESIRE. THE GKR IS CONTINUING TO STRUGGLE WITH THE RICE PROBLEM AND HAS MADE SOME HEADWAY IN SCHEDULING RICE SHIPMENTS FROM VIETNAM, RATIONALIZING DISTRIBUTION, ORGANIZING A RICE AIRLIFT TO ISOLATED PROVINCES, AND MOVING RICE FROM BATTAMBANG TO PHNOM PENH. MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUED AT A HIGH LEVEL AROUND PHNOM PENH, PARTICULARLY IN AREAS SOUTH AND NORTH OF THE CAPITAL.

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POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. A DEVELOPING POLITICAL CRISIS RESULTING FROM THE DISSATISFACTION OF PRIME MINISTER IN TAM AT HIS VIRTUAL ATXCLUSION FROM MILCMAR AFFAIRS AND HIS DESIRE FOR CONTROL OVER THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAS NOW SUBSIDED. AT A MEETING ON JULY 16 THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL DECIDED TO GIVE IN TAM THE INTERIOR PORTFOLIO CON-

CURRENTLY WITH HIS JOB AS PRIME MINISTER AND TO CREATE TWO NEW BODIES TO STRENGTHEN THE WAR EFFORT. A "MIXED STAFF" COMPOSED OF BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES AND HEADED BY RESPECTED MG SAK SUTSAKHAN WILL WORK TO MOBOLIZE POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE WAR EFFORT, TO COORDINATE CIVILIAN AND MILITARY ACTIVITIES;

AND TO IMPLEMENT COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE. (SOME IMPROVEMENT IN THIS DIRECTION IS ALREADY EVIDENT IN LOCAL PRESS AND RADIO APPEALS FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE ARMY). A "COUNCIL OF WAR" WITH A PURELY MILITARY MEMBERSHIP WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO RESTORE DISCIPLINE AND FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN THE ARMED FORCES. THE NEW BODIES ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN FUNCTIONING AT ONCE.

3. THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED PRESS CONTINUED ITS EMPHASIS ON THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF ANY ACCOMODATION WITH SIHANOUK, DESCRIBED AS A FRONT FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF HANOI AND PEKING AND A MAN REPRESENTING NO ONE BUT HIMSELF. NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE IN-COUNTRY KHMER INSURGENTS ARE SEEN AS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM KHMER SOIL.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

4. GKR AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL KEO KIMSAN PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS ON JULY 1 IN A CEREMONY WHICH AKP DESCRIBED AS EXCEPTIONALLY LONG IN RECOGNITION OF THE SPECIAL IMPORTANCE ISRAEL ATTACHES TO RELATIONS WITH THE KHMER REPUBLIC.

5. INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK TOLD A PRESS CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFERENCE IN JAKARTA THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WILL SUPPORT THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT AS LONG AS IT REMAINS THE LEGAL GOVERNMENT IN CAMBODIA. HE ADDED THAT "FACE TO FACE" NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE KHMER DISPUTANTS, WITHOUT FOREIGN INTERVENTION, IS THE ONLY WAY TO SOLVE THE KHMER PROBLEM.

GRUNK/FUNK

6. SIHANOUK AND THE GRUNK INFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA MINISTRY ISSUED ON JULY 10 SEPARATE REJECTIONS OF THE GKR'S JULY 6 PEACE INITIATIVE. THE PRINCE ALSO TOLD AFP THAT HE REFUSZE \*2'EE DR. KISSINGER WHO COULD, HOWEVER, USE CHOU-EN-LAI AS AN INTERMEDIARY TO PUT FORWARD PROPOSALS FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE KHMER ROUGE.

IN A LATER AFP STORY SIHANOUK INDICATED KISSINGER AND  
THE KHMER ROUGE MIGHT MEET IF THEY SO DESIRED. THE  
PRINCE TOLD REUTERS THAT HE WOULD GO TO NORTH KOREA  
ON JULY 20 FOR A THREE-WEEK STAY. (COMMENT: THE  
FOUR-DAY DELAY IN RESPONDING TO THE GKR PROPOSALS SUGGESTS  
THAT SOME DISCUSSION OF THE SIX POINTS TOOK PLACE  
AMONG THE VARIOUS INSURGENT ELEMENTS AND PERHAPS  
WITH ALLIES. THE GENUINE AS CONTRASTED TO THE PUBLIC  
ATTITUDE OF THE GRUNK/FUNK TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS PROBABLY  
REMAINS TO BE TESTED.)

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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AGR-20 OMB-01 RSR-01 /174 W

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O R 171135Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2149

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
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AMCONSUL CAN THO  
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
CINCPAC  
CINCPACFLT  
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CGFMFPAC  
CGUSARSUPTHAI  
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COMSEVENTHFLT  
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7/13 AF  
7TH PSYOPS  
COMUSSAG  
III MAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 7227

7. THE CLANDESTINE RADIO ON JUL Y11 BROADCAST A JULY 6 COMMUNIQUE FROM PENN NOUTH'S OFFICE DENYING RUMORS THAT THE GRUNK PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE SENT TO PHNOM PENH TO NEGOTIATE A COALITION GOVERNMENT. THE DENIAL WAS UNDOUBTEDLY PROMPTED BY THE JUNE 28 AFP REPORT FROM HANOI WHICH CLAIMED THAT SOURCES CLOSE TO GRUNK BELIEVE THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO NEGOTIATE A NATIONAL UNION GOVERNMENT. (COMMENT: THIS DENIAL, WHICH WAS ISSUED CONCURRENTLY WITH THE REJECTION OF THE GKR'S SIX POINTS, STIFFENS GRUNK/FUNK INTRANSIGENCE ON NEGOTIATIONS.)

8. HSINHUA REPORTED JULY 16 ON SIHANOUK'S 43RD MESSAGE TO THE NATION. A SHORT POLICY DOCUMENT RATHER THAN THE USUAL EXCERPTS FROM PRESS ITEMS, THE MESSAGE REAFFIRMED FUNK'S REJECTION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GKR. IT WARNED FOREIGN POWERS TO MIND THEIR OWN BUSINESS AND SPECIFICALLY REJECTED A CEASE-FIRE AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CAMBODIA, THE INTRODUCTION OF AN ICC, AND CLEMENCY FOR THE CURRENT GKR LEADERSHIP.

GRUNK/FUNK (EXTERNAL)

9. UPPER VOLTA ANNOUNCED JULY 12 THAT IT RECOGNIZES GRUNK AS THE SOLE LEGAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA. THE RECOGNITION FOLLOWS A VISIT BY A SIHANOUKIST  
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DELEGATION WHICH MET WITH THE UPPER VOLTAN PRESIDENT ON JULY 11.

10. ON JULY 12 CHILE'S PRESIDENT ALLENDE ACCEPTED THE CREDENTIALS OF DR. NOU PECH AS GRUNK AMBASSADOR.

ECONOMIC

11. IN DAILY MEETINGS OF THE GKR INTERMINISTERIAL RICE COMMITTEE DISCUSSION HAVE CENTERED ON OBTAINING RICE FROM BATTAMBANG, ACTIVATING THE RICE AIRLIFT, AND DISTRIBUTING RICE IN PHNOM PENH. THE COMMITTEE IS ATTEMPTING TO TRANSPORT AS  
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TRUCKING. THE COMMITTEE HAS SUCCEEDED IN GRADUALLY INCREASING THE AIRLIFT OF RICE FROM PHNOM PENH TO SVAY RIENG AND KOMPONG CHAM. PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH RICE DISTRIBUTION IN PHNOM PENH HAVE ALSO BEEN DISCUSSED BUT THUS FAR THE COMMITTEE HAS MADE NO FIRM RECOMMENDATIONS. ACTUAL DISTRIBUTION CONTINUED TO AVERAGE SLIGHTLY BELOW THE TARGET OF 550 M/T PER DAY.

12. ROUTES 4, 5 AND THE MEKONG REMAIN OPEN. SHIPMENTS OF RICE FROM VIETNAM ARE NOW ARRIVING ON A REGULAR BASIS AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT MOST, IF NOT ALL, SHIPMENTS SCHEDULED FOR PHNOM PENH WILL ARRIVE BEFORE THE END OF JULY.

13. THE GKR HAS RECEIVED A CABLE FROM BANGKOK STATING THAT THE RTG IS PREPARED TO MAKE 5,000 M/T OF BROKENS AVAILABLE. THE GKR PLANS TO ACCEPT THE OFFER BUT WILL ALSO PRESS FOR AN ADDITIONAL 5,000 M/T OF RICE FROM THAILAND.

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14. THE GKR RICE AIRLIFT TO SVAY RIENG AND KOMPONG CHAM IS TO BE AUGMENTED BY USAF C-139'S AND AIR AMERICA PLANES. AIR AMERICA WILL SERVICE SVAY RIENG AND THE USAF WILL PROVIDE RICE AIRLIFTS TO KOMPONG CHAM. THE OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO BUILD UP A ONE MONTH SUPPLY OF RICE IN BOTH LOCATIONS

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OFFENSIVE CONTINUES IN THE RTE E AREA SOUTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL. GOVERNMENT CLEARING EFFORTS TO STABILIZE A SERIOUS SITUATION NORTH OF THE PREK THNAOT TIVER ARE STALLED IN THE FACE OF ENEMY RESISTANCE. THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION WAS ACCENTUATED BY UNDERSTRENGTH FANK UNITS AND POOR

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CAMBODIA, THIRD DIVISION  
APPEAR TO HAVE ALLEVIATED WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN A SERIOUS THREAT TO PHNOM PENH.

16. SOUTHEAST OF THE CAPITAL, ENEMY FORCES LAUNCHED ATTACKS BY FIRE AND GROUND PROBES AGAINST FRIENDLY POSITIONS ALONG THE BASSAC RIVER ON JULY 13. FURTHER ENEMY INITIATIVES ARE ANTICIPATED; HOWEVER, A MAJOR ENEMY ASSAULT AGAINST PHNOM PENH IS NOT EXPECTED.

17. NORTH OF THE CAPITAL A NEW ENEMY THREAT MAY BE DEVELOPING WHICH COULD AFFECT RTE 5 CONVOY OPERATIONS. THREE COMPANY-SIZE POSITIONS WERE LOST APPROX 10 KM SOUTH OF THE RTES 5/6 - TONLE SAP FERRY CROSSING; RELIEF FORCES ARE ENCOUNTERING STIFF RESISTANCE. ALL FRIENDLY POSITIONS ALONG THE TONLE SAP BANK OPPOSITE THE FERRY CROSSING WERE FORCED TO EVACUATE AS A RESULT OF ENEMY ATTACKS. FURTHER NORTH, ENEMY PRESSURE INCREASED NEAR THE RTES 6/7 CROSSROADS TOWN OF SKOUN. THESE ACTIONS ARE PROBABLY DIVERSIONARY AND DO NOT YET REFLECT A DIRECT THREAT TO THE CAPITAL.

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18. THE REDEPLOYMENT OF THE FIRST DIVISION FROM RTE 5 SOUTH OF KOMPONG CHHNANG, TO BOLSTER FANK OPERATIONAL FORCES ON RTE 3 SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH, INCREASES THE RISK OF RENEWED ENEMY INTERDICTION EFFORTS ALONG THIS PORTION OF THE HIGHWAY.

19. A MEKONG RIVER CONVOY, TRANSPORTING RICE AND  
POL FROM SOUTH VIETNAM, ARRIVED AT PHNOM PENH ON  
12 JULY WITHOUT INCIDENT. ALL MAJOR LOC'S REMAIN  
OPEN TO CONVOY TRAFFIC.  
SWANK

NOTE BY OCT: PHNOM PENH 7227 # OMISSIONS.  
CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** willialc  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS SWANK  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730728/aaaaaurq.tel  
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**Type:** TE  
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